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The Mutiny in Virginia, 1635.

(S. P. O. COLO. VOL. 8, No. 65.)

*Letter from Capt. Sam'l Mathews concerning the eviction of
Harvey, Governor of Va.*

HONORED SIR :

I have made bold to present you with divers passages concerning our late governor by the hands of my worthy friend Sir John Zouch.* But such was the miserable condition wee lived in that it dayly gives just occasion of new complaints which I doe hereby presume to acquaint you withall, which I beseech you to credit as they are true in every particular. Sir, you may please to take notice that since Sir John Harvie his deteyning of the Letters to his Majestie the Lords and others concerning a contract, of which Sir John Zouch had onely bare copies, such as the Secretary would give without either his or the clarkes hand. Notwithstanding he promised me to certefie them under his hand, whereupon Sir John Zouch declared before his departure that it was not safe for him to deale as agent in the countreyes affaires as they had desired him to do, having no warrant for his proceedings. And therefore desired that if the colony would them deale therein for them, they should give him further authority under their hands. To that purpose when a letter was drawn and carried to the Burgesses to subscribe; the consideration of the wrong done by the Govenor to the whole colony in detayning the foresaid Letters to his Majesty did exceedingly perplex them, whereby they were made sensible of the miserable condition of the present Govenor, wherein the Govenor usurped the whole power, in all causes without any respect to the votes of the councell, whereby justice was now done but soe farr as suited with his will to the great losse of Many Mens estates and a generall feare in all. They had heard him in open court revile all the councell and tell them they were to give their attendance as assistants onely to advise with him, which if liked of should pass, otherwise the power lay in himselfe to dispose of all matters

* See Neill's *Virginia Vetusta* and *Virginia Carolorum*.

as his Majesties substitute. Next that he had reduced the colony to a great straight by complying with the Marylanders soe farr that betweene them and himselfe all places of trade fore corne were shutt up from them, and no meanes left to relieve their wants without transgressing his commands which was very dangerous for any to attempt. This want came upon us the increase of above 2000 persons this yeare to the colony as alsoe by an unusuall kind of werell that last yeare eate our corne, againe they saw a dangerous peace made by him with the Indians against the councells and countreyes advice, that although the Indians had offered any insolent injuries yet he withheld us from revenging ourselves and had taken of them satisfaction for many Hoggs, of which in one place a Lyst was brought in of above 500; which satisfaction the Interpreter instefies he had received for the Governors owne use. The inhabitants also understood with indignation that the Marylanders had taken Captaine Clayborne's Pinnasses and men with the goods in them, whereof they had made prize and shared the goods amongst them, which action of theirs Sir John Harvey upheld contrary to his Majestie's express comands in his Royall Letters, and the Letters of the Lords which Letter from his Majestie he did not communicate to the rest of the councell though Captaine Clayborne in his Petition had directed them to the whole Board. But said they were surreptitiously gotten. Sir, these and infinite number of per-ticular mens injuries, were the grounds of their greife and the occasion of the Petition and Letter that they exhibited to the councell for some speedy redress of these evils which would otherwise ruine the Colony.

These general grievances made some of the people meete in some numbers and in an unlawfull manner, yet without any manifestation of bad intents, only desires to exhibit their complaints, as did appeare upon strict examination, though Captain Purfrey*

* Captain Thomas Purifoy (or Purfrey, and Purifie, as it is frequently written in the old records) was principal commander of Elizabeth City in 1628, and a commissioner for that county in the same year; Burgess for the lower part of Elizabeth City in 1629-'30, and member of the Council in 1631. A contemporary says of him: "He is a soldier and a man of open heart, hating, for ought I can perceive, all kinds of dissimulation and baseness." He named (according to a land patent) one

had in a Letter accused them in a neare sense to rebellion which since he denied under his owne hand, being usuall with him to affirme and deny often the same things. The governor having intelligence of this Petition grew intraged, and sent out his warrants to apprehend the complaynants, which some of the counsell accordingly executed; upon these appearances he himself onely, constituted a new sheriff at James Citty, a defamed fellow to whom he committed the Keeping of the Prisoners in Irons. Some of them desiring the cause of their comittment, to whom he answered that they should at the gallowes, presently the counsell being called together he declared it necessary that Marshall law should be executed upon the Prisoners, but it was desired they might have legall tryall; soe growing into extreame collier and passion, after many passings and repassings to and fro, at length sate downe in the chayre and with a frowning countenance bid all the counsell sit. After a long pause he drew a paper out of his pockett and reading it to himself said to the counsell; I am to propound a question unto you; I require every man, in his Majestie's name, to deliver his opinion in writing under his hand, and no man to advise or counsell with the other, but to make a direct answer unto this proposition (which is this): What do you think they deserve that have gone about to persuade the people from their obedience to his Majestie's substitute; And to this I doe require you to make your present answer and no man to advise or interrupt with other. And I begin with you Mr.

of his estates (a thousand-acre tract) "Drayton," doubtless after the place of that name, which is mentioned by Burke as a seat of the Purifoyes (extinct baronets). There is among the Maryland archives a deposition, dated 1640, of his wife, Lucy Purifoy, who was then about forty-two years old. She stated that she was born "infra Ranson," Leicestershire, and had been in Virginia as early as 1629. In 1656 a grant was made to W. Moore for land at Old Poquosan, which had been assigned to him by Lucy, relict of Captain Purifoy, and confirmed by Thomas Purifoy, his son and heir. Mr. Thomas Purifoy, probably the son, patented 2,000 acres in the "freshes of Rappahannock" in 1655, and "Mr. Thomas Purifoy" was a justice of Elizabeth City in 1650. On June 19, 1675, Mr. Matson Wakelin petitioned the Council in behalf of the orphans of Thomas Purifoy, deceased, for a survey of their lands. So that the son was dead prior to this time.

Menefie;* who answered, I am but a young Lawyer and dare not upon the suddain deliver my opinion. The governor required that should be his answer under his hand; Mr. Farrar† begann to complaine of that strong comand, the governor cutt of his speech saying in his Majestie's name I comand you not to speake till your turne. Then myselfe replyed, I conceive this a strange kind of proceeding; instantly in his Majesties name he comanded me silence; I said further there was no Presedent for such a comand, whereupon he gave me leave to speake further. But it was by a Tyrant meaning that passage of Richard the third against the Lord Hastings; after which relation the rest of the councill begann to speake and refused that course. Then followed many bitter languages from him, till the sitting ended. The next meeting in a most sterne manner he demanded

* See *Magazine* I, page 86. His daughter and heiress married Captain Henry Perry, of Charles City county, and inherited her father's estate, Buckland.

† Nicholas Farrar (or Ferrar), who was descended from the Yorkshire Ferrars and nearly allied to Robert Ferrar, Bishop of St. David's (who suffered martyrdom in 1555), was born in 1546, and at his death (April, 1620,) and several years before a distinguished member of the Virginia Company. He married Mary Wodenoth, of an old Cheshire family, and had issue: I. Susannah, married Thomas Collett, Esq.; II. John, born 1590, Treasurer of the Virginia Company. He died in 1657, and by his wife, Bathsheba, had a daughter, Virginia, who was greatly interested in Virginia, advocated the culture of silk here, and prepared a map of the Colony in 1657; III. Nicholas, born February 22d, 1593, Treasurer of the Virginia Company and Member of Parliament, who afterwards attracted much attention by his religious retirement at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire; IV. Richard, born 1596; V. William. The latter is said to have been a barrister, and the person named in the text, who was in Virginia in 1621, was a member of the Council 1627-1633, and a justice of Charles City and Henrico. He died in or before 1637, and left two sons, William and John, who were prominent citizens of Henrico county, justices, sheriffs, and member of the House of Burgesses, and have many descendants in various parts of the United States. In 1637 there was a grant to "Mr. William Farrar, son and heir of William Farrar, of Henrico, deceased."

No family rendered greater services to the infant Colony than the Farrars (or Ferrars) of London, and copy of the will of Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., (who died in 1620) would be of much interest. We hope some member of the family will secure a copy and allow us to publish it.

the reason that wee conceived of the countreye's Petition against him. Mr. Menefee made answer, the chiefest cause was the detayning of the Letters to his Majestie and the Lords. Then he rising in a great rage sayd to Mr. Menefee ; and do you say soe? He replied, yes : presently the governor in a fury went and striking him on the shoulder as hard as I can imagine he could said, I arrest you of suspicion of Treason to his Majestie. Then Captain Utie* being neare said, and wee the like to you sir. Whereupon I seeing him in a rage, tooke him in my armes and said: Sir, there is no harm intended against you save only to acquaint you with the grievances of the Inhabitants and to that end I desire you to sitt downe in youre chayre. And soe I related to him the aforesaid grievances of the colony desiring him that their just complaint might receive some satisfaction which he altogether denied, soe that sitting ended. After wee were parted the Secretary Shewed a letter sent up by Captain Purfrey to the Governor which spake of dangerous times, that to his knowledge the wayes were layd, which when wee had considered with the things before specified, wee much doubted least the Inhabitants would not be kept in due obedience if the Governor continued as formerly and soe acquainted him therewith. The which opinion of ours he desired under our hands the which being granted him he was requested the sight of his Majestie's Comission, and the same being publicuely read (notwithstanding any former passages) wee of the Councell tendred the continuance of our assistance provided that he would be pleased to conforme himselfe to his Majesties pleasure expressed by his Comission and Instructions, the which request was in no part satisfied, whereupon being doubtfull of some Tyrannicall proceeding wee requested the Secretary† to take charge of the Comission and Instructions

* See *Magazine* I, p. 90.

† "The Secretary" was then Richard Kemp, Esq., who was appointed secretary of Virginia, and member of the Council in 1634, at the instance, he says, of the Duke of Lennox and the Earl of Pembroke (*English Colonial State Papers*). He was acting Governor from June, 1644, to June, 1645, and was still Secretary in 1648. The date of his death is not known, but it appears from a tomb in Bruton Churchyard, which was formerly at "Green Spring," that he was buried at the latter place. It is believed that his widow or daughter, Elizabeth, married first Sir

untill we had some time to consider of a safe course for the satisfying the Inhabitants Petition and the safety of the Governours Person which by reason of Captain Purfreys letter wee conceived to be in some danger ; whereupon wee appointed an Assembly of all the late Burgesses whereby they might acquaint us with their grievances as may appeare by theire Petition ; wee broke up for that meeting with a resolution to return againe within six dayes, having, according to Sir John Harvey's desire appointed a sufficient gard for the safety of his Person, within three dayes after he departed from James City and went into the Mills to the house of one William Brockas,* whose wife was generally suspected to have more familiarity with him than befitted a modest

Thomas Lunsford, and afterwards Major-General Robert Smith of Middlesex county. There is recorded in Lancaster, January 7, 1656, a receipt, dated December 1, 1656, from Thomas Stegge, acknowledging that he had received from "the Lady Lunsford" 2,000 pounds of tobacco in full of all accounts between Mr. John Calbert and Mr. Richard Kemp, deceased. There is also recorded in Lancaster a deed dated April 28, 1656, from "Dame Elizabeth Lunsford" to her loving friend Richard Lee, conveying fifty acres, part of a tract of 500 acres assigned her by Samuel Abbott. Lady Lunsford was taxed in Lancaster, 1658, for fourteen tithables. It also appears from the Ludwell papers in The Virginia Historical Society collection that Robert Smith and Elizabeth, his wife, had some sort of interest in lands which had formerly belonged to Richard Kemp and to Samuel Abbott.

It is not believed that Richard Kemp was ancestor of the well known family of that name in Middlesex and Gloucester. Their first ancestor, of whom the records give any notice was Edmond Kent, gentleman, who was living in Lancaster (which then included Middlesex) in 1656. He was a justice of Lancaster, 1655, 1657, &c.; and died in 1659 or 1660, and shortly afterwards his widow, Ann, married Sir Grey Skipwith, Bart, of Middlesex (*Lancaster Records*). There is recorded in Lancaster an order, dated Jan. 4, 1656, pursuant to a petition of Mr. Edmond Kemp, attorney of Sir Robert Kemp, Knight.

* Captain William Brocas was a member of the Council from — to 1655. He patented large tracts of land, and lived first in York county, and afterwards in that part of Lancaster which is now Middlesex. A writer states in 1647, that Captain Brocas of the Council, who had been a great traveller, had a vineyard and made excellent wine. He appears to have married three times : first Tabitha (there is recorded in Lancaster a certificate of land to Captain W. Brocas for the importation of seventeen persons, including Dr. Henry Waldron, Mrs. Tabitha Brocas,

woman where he thought himselfe soe secure that he dismissed his guard. Soone after the Councell and Burgesses according to the time prefixed mett at James Citty. But before wee entered upon any business the Secretary shewed us a Letter which he had received that morning from Sir John Harvey (the true copie whereof I have here inclosed) And notwithstanding his threats therein the Assembly proceeded according to their former Intentions. The next morning the Secretary shewed us another letter from Sir John Harvey wherein he had required him to redeliver him his Majesties Comission and Instructions charging him upon his alleageance to keepe Secresie therein. But the Councell had before thought of his late practises with the Secretary concerning the detayning of the former proceedings, had comitted the charge of the Comission and Instructions to Mr. George Menefie until all differences were settled. And for the effecting of the same wee proceeded to give a hearing unto the grievances of the Inhabitants which were innumerable, and theretofore it thought fit that their genẽrall grievances only should be presented to the Right Honorable Lords Comis-

&c.); secondly Mary, widow of Christopher Wormeley, Esq. (*York Records*), and thirdly Eleanor, daughter of Richard Eltonhead, of "Eltonhead," Lancashire, England (who afterwards married Col. John Carter of "Corotoman"—*Lancaster Records*). There is recorded in Lancaster a deed, dated Nov. 17, 1652, from "Capt. Wm. Brocas of Rappa: river in ye County of Lancaster in Virginia Esq." to his wife Eleanor—witnesses Edwin Conoway [Conway] (who married her sister Martha Eltonhead), and John Anderson; and also an order of court, May, 1655, granting Eleanor Brocas, administration on the estate of her husband, W. Brocas, deceased, who by indenture dated November 6, 1652, conveyed to Sir Henry Chichley, Knight, his whole estate in trust for his wife Eleanor Brocas. Sir Henry Chichley married Agatha, widow of Ralph Wormeley, Esq., of "Rosegill," Middlesex, and sister of Mrs. Eleanor Brocas.

There is recorded in Lancaster, May 1655, "A schedule of ye estate of Capt. Wm. Brocas, Esq.," and in July the inventory of his personal estate, which includes among other things "the servants that are English," viz: George Hickman with two years to serve, valued at 2000 lbs. tobacco, "Nora an Irish girl that cannot speak English," &c. (Here seems to be a palpable bull.) And also "a parcel of old torn books most of them Spanish, Italian, and Latin," valued at 100 lbs. tobacco. Captain Brocas died without issue, and it appears from the Lancaster records that his heir at law was one John Jackson.

sions for Plantations omitting particular complaints which should have been over tedious until a fitter opportunity. Sir, we were once resolved not to proceed to the election of a New Governor but finding his Majesties commands to the contrary that upon the death or absence of any governor to make a new election. Therefore until we hear of his Majesties further pleasure we have made choice of Captaine John West* an ancient Inhabi-

* John West, brother of Thomas, Third Lord Delaware, Governor of Virginia, was born ———, and died in 1659-60. He was a member of the Virginia Company 1609; he came to the Colony at an early date; was member of the House of Burgesses 1629-'30, justice of York (where he lived some time), 1634, and member of the Council from 1631 until his death. He was Governor from May, 1635, to January, 1637, and in the latter year was sent to England (along with Matthews and Utie, and Peirce, who had gone over a year before) to stand trial for their share in Harvey's deposition; but nothing appears to have come of it. On August 27, 1640, the King wrote to the Governor of Virginia directing him to send over West, Matthews, Peirce, and Menefie to answer to an information in the Star Chamber. This likewise seems to have amounted to nothing, for in the next year (1641) he was appointed Muster Master-General of Virginia. He married Anne ———, and had an only child, John West, Jr.

By order of court, bearing date 6th of June, 1632, Sir John Harvey, Knight, and the rest of the Council, granted unto Captain John West 2,000 acres of land, in consideration of his son being the first born Christian at Chiscayack (*Conway Robinson's Notes from General Court Records*). In 1651 Captain John West was granted 1550 acres in York county, and among the head rights were himself "4 times" [*i. e.*, four times from England], Mrs. Anne West "twice," and John West, Jr. Among other large grants was one on the Mattapony, "in Gloucester Co.," in 1654, and another (as Colonel John West) in 1657. This last he failed to seat, and in 1662 it was regranted to Captain John West as his "son and heir." In 1655 Colonel John West, Esq., and John West, Jr., were witnesses to a deed from Pindeabank, an Indian, to Edward Wyatt (son of Rev. Hawte Wyatt).

At the session of March, 1659-'60, the Assembly passed an order declaring "Whereas the many important favours and serves rendered to the country of Virginia by the noble family of the West, predecessors to Mr. John West, their now only survivor, claim at least a grateful remembrance of their former merits be still continued to their survivor, *It is ordered*, That the levies of the said Master West and his family be remitted, and that he be exempted from payment thereof during life." (*Hening I*, 547.)

tant who is a very honest gentlemen of a noble family being brother to the Lord Laward sometimes governor of Virginia. I beseech God to direct his Majestie in appointing of some worthy religious gentleman, for to take charge of this his colony, and I doubt not by God's assistance and the industry of the people, but Virginia in few yeares will flourish. You may please to take notice that Captaine Clayborne two dayes since repayred unto us for redress against the oppressions of the Marylanders who have slaine three and hurt others of the Inhabitants of the Isle of Kent. Notwithstanding their Knowledge of his Majesties late express Letter to comand freedome of trade, the true coppie whereof I have here inclosed, I doe believe that they would not have comitted such outrages without Sir John Harvey's instigation, however in conformity to his Majesties comand wee have entreated Captaine Utie and Captain Pierce to sayle for Maryland with Instructions and Letters from the Governor and counsell desiring them to desist their violent proceedings promising them all fayre correspondence on the behalfe of the Inhabitants of the Isle of Kent untill wee understood his Majesties further pleasure.

In the meane time we rest in expectation of their answere according to which wee intend to proceed. In the which I beseech God to direct us for the best. I conclude with an assured hope that Sir John Harvey's returne will be acceptable to God not displeasing to his Majestie, and an assured happiness unto this Colony, wherein whilst I live, I shall be ready to doe you all the true offices of a faythfull friend and servant.

Signed SAM: MATHEWS.

From Newport Neues
this 25th May, 1635.

Colonel John West, Jr., lived at "West Point" (now King William county); sat on the courts martial which tried the rebels in Bacon's time, and in 1680 was senior justice, and colonel commanding the militia of New Kent county (see *Magazine* III, p. 248). He married Ursula, daughter of Major Joseph Croshaw, of York county (*York Records*), and left issue (his will being dated 1689)—three sons, John, Nathaniel, and Thomas, and a daughter, Anne, who married Henry Fox. They have many descendants of their own name and in the families of Aylett, Claiborne, Fox, Dandridge, and numerous others.